

LBJ was skeptical of one-bullet theory

An Associated Press Report

WASHINGTON — Even while the Warren Commission was preparing its report on the assassination of President Kennedy, there were disagreements over whether the same bullet had struck Kennedy and John Connally. Among the dissenters: President Johnson.

Besides, Johnson asked Warren Commission member Sen. Richard Russell, D-Ga., "What difference does it make which bullet got Connally?"

Arguments over the single-bullet theory continue more than 30 years after the attack in which Kennedy was killed and Connally, the governor of Texas, was wounded.

Johnson's conversation with Russell was included among tapes released Friday by the National Archives and the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin.

The tapes reviewed in Austin disclosed that Connally called Johnson on March 2, 1967, to discuss claims that Cuba was involved in the assassination. In other phone conversations, Johnson told aides to keep up with New Orleans prosecutor Jim Garrison's investigation into the slaying.

Johnson said he didn't believe the CIA-Cuba theory. In a Feb. 18, 1967, conversation with then-acting Attor-

ney General Ramsey Clark, Johnson said the Cuban theory was as preposterous as if he were told that his wife, Lady Bird Johnson, "was taking dope."

Johnson's conversation with Russell, about the bullet that hit Connally, occurred on Sept. 18, 1964. They discussed progress in preparing the report on Kennedy's slaying.

The senator noted some members of the commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren believed that "the same bullet that hit Kennedy first is the one that hit Connally."

Responding to Johnson's musing, Russell said "well, it don't make much difference." He added: "Well, I don't believe it. ..."

"I don't either," Johnson responded.

Russell said the differences among the commission members were to be noted in the report.

Connally, riding in the front seat of the presidential limousine, was wounded when Kennedy, in the back seat, was slain in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Investigators agree that three shots were fired, but through the years conspiracy arguments have turned on whether the same bullet could have passed through Kennedy's upper back and wounded Connally.

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